



SUPPORTING OUR VOLUNTEERS: The Evolving Role of the CFS Foundation

As the volume and variety of incidents that our CFS volunteers respond to expands, so too has the role of the CFS Foundation.

For over two decades, the CFS Foundation has proudly stood behind the brave volunteers of the South Australian Country Fire Service. Our mission has always been clear: to provide immediate financial support to volunteers and their families when they are injured, lose their homes or livelihoods, or face other hardships as a result of their active service. But as the demands on our volunteers have evolved, so has the support we provide.

Since our inception in 2001, the CFS Foundation has provided more than \$3.7 million in direct financial support to CFS volunteers. In addition to individual assistance, we continue to invest in equipment, resources, and wellbeing initiatives that empower CFS volunteers and brigades across the state to operate safely and effectively.

None of this would be possible without the incredible generosity of our donors, sponsors, and community partners who continue to invest in the safety and resilience of our volunteers. As the needs of our volunteers grow, so too does our resolve to meet them.

It is vitally important that the CFS Foundation can continue to provide support and financial assistance to our CFS volunteers in their time of need, and your ongoing assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Gloria Berni,
Chief Executive Officer

CFS VOLUNTEER SIMON VEITCH

In December, 2024, dedicated South Australian Country Fire Service (SACFS) volunteer Simon Veitch sustained burn injuries while battling a grass fire in Cootra, near Kimba, on the Eyre Peninsula.

Simon was working to contain the fire near his property when he fell from the back of his Farm Fire Unit into burning stubble, resulting in first and second degree burns to his arms, legs and hands. He was initially treated at Wudinna Hospital, where he was stabilised before being airlifted by the Royal Flying Doctor Service to the Royal Adelaide Hospital for specialised care in the Burns Unit.

Following weeks of treatment and multiple bandage changes, we are pleased to advise that Simon has recovered tremendously well and has now returned to work.

Sally Veitch quote *"We are very grateful for the financial and emotional support you provided. Knowing we were not struggling alone and there was such care and support from you all made a huge difference."*

This incident underscores the significant risks faced by volunteer firefighters who selflessly protect their communities. The SACFS remains committed to the safety and well-being of its members, while the CFS Foundation is proud to have supported Simon and his family through his recovery.



Leave a lasting gift in your Will

Leaving a bequest to the CFS Foundation can make a real difference to the CFS volunteers and their families who have suffered death, injury, loss or property damage while in the line of service.

Supporters interested in leaving a legacy to CFS Foundation can contact the Foundation on 1300 270 278 for a confidential discussion.



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MT BARKER SHOW

In mid-March, CFS Foundation CEO, Gloria Berni had the pleasure of taking part in the Mount Barker Show, joining the CFS Community Engagement team for a day of connection, community, and fundraising.

Held under clear skies and warm sunshine, the show provided the perfect opportunity for the Foundation to spread awareness about its work and sell merchandise to support ongoing initiatives.

The event also offered a great opportunity to connect with the volunteers from the Mount Barker CFS brigade, whose commitment to protecting their community is awesome.

A big thank you goes to the SACFS for inviting the Foundation to be part of their activation. Events like the Mount Barker Show are a fantastic way to strengthen ties with the community and share the important work being undertaken by the Foundation.



Smoke Eaters Wine will donate \$20 to the **CFS Foundation** for every 6 pack of wine sold



Smoke Eaters Wine was founded by two firefighters in SA MFS Firefighters who were keen to give back to their community.

They are offering a **25% discount** off all their wine using the discount code

CFS25

www.smokeeaters.com.au



Proudly supporting the CFS Foundation

CFS SOFTBALL ROUND

The CFS Foundation thanks the Hills Heat Softball Club for once again hosting the CFS Softball Round at Anembo Park as part of the Statewide CFS Softball initiative.

Now in its third year, the event continues to grow in size and impact, with the Hills Heat team showing incredible commitment to supporting our CFS volunteers through this fantastic fundraiser.



CFS Foundation CEO Gloria Berni was joined on the night by CFS Chief Officer Brett Loughlin, Minister for Emergency Services Hon. Emily Bourke MLC, and Mt Barker Councillor Jess Szilassy for the VIP Hitout Competition, proudly sponsored by the Arkaba Hotel, which raised \$500.

It was a fun filled evening for the whole family, featuring two great games of softball and a generous \$1,000 donation from the NFA Pirates Softball Club. A huge thank you goes out to Lyn and Jo for their tireless efforts behind the scenes, and to the wonderful Hills Heat families who volunteered on the BBQ across Friday night and Saturday.

All funds raised go directly towards supporting our dedicated CFS volunteers. Your generosity helps make a real difference - Thank you!

LAUNCH OF THE SACFS AFSM ASSOCIATION

The South Australian Country Fire Service Australian Fire Service Medal Association (SACFS AFSM Association) has been officially launched, bringing together CFS volunteers and staff who have been honoured with the prestigious Fire Service Medal. Formed with the purpose of fostering leadership, supporting volunteer development and promoting excellence in emergency service delivery, the Association marks a significant step forward in strengthening the emergency services community.

The founding convenor was Vince Monterola AM, AFSM, a respected leader in the emergency services sector and a passionate advocate for volunteer recognition and development.

The launch was celebrated with a special dinner at the Vine Inn in Nuriootpa, officiated by the Association's Patron, Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia.

CFS Foundation Chairman, John Lynch OAM, was honoured to speak at the event, sharing the Foundation's vision to build a strong and collaborative relationship with the SACFS AFSM Association. Together, we aim to support our dedicated CFS volunteers through leadership development, shared initiatives and opportunities that align with our shared values.

We congratulate everyone involved on the successful launch and look forward to working together on this inspiring initiative.



Image: L-R - Brett Loughlin AFSM (CFS Chief Officer), Rob Sandford AFSM, Yvette Dowling AFSM, Rob Styling AFSM OAM, Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, Andrew Lawson AFSM (AFSM Chairman), Vince Monterola AM AFSM, Lee Watson AFSM & Brenton Eden AFSM.

CFS ROAD CRASH RESCUE TRAINING

CFS volunteers attend over 2,000 road crash rescue incidents annually. This represents a significant portion of their overall emergency response efforts, alongside other incidents like fires and hazardous material incidents, therefore, road crash rescue training is vital for the volunteers.

*That's why **road crash rescue training is absolutely vital** for our volunteers.*

CFS State Training Officer – Rescue, David Zakrzewski, leads the delivery of this critical training across South Australia, bringing the fully equipped CFS Road Crash Rescue trailer to regional areas. Sponsored by the **RAA's** the trailer is fitted with the latest rescue tools and technology, ensuring volunteers receive high-quality, hands-on instruction wherever they are.



RAA's support reflects a shared commitment to road safety and to ensuring people involved in vehicle accidents receive fast, effective, and professional rescue care.

This year alone, around 300 volunteers have either completed or refreshed their training. These sessions are essential not only for maintaining skills but also for introducing new techniques and advancements in rescue operations.



The CFS Road Crash Rescue training program plays a crucial role in preparing our volunteers to save lives—safely, efficiently, and with confidence.

AFL EMERGENCY SERVICES ROUND & NEW COMFORT KOALA LAUNCH

Thanks to the generous support of Stewart & Heaton Clothing Company, 500 Comfort Koalas have been donated to the CFS Foundation. These Comfort Koalas will be distributed to CFS brigades to keep on board their trucks, ready to bring comfort to children during emergencies.

Officially launched at the AFL Emergency Services Round at Adelaide Oval in March, these cuddly companions - named Smokey after the CFS mascot, are designed to ease distress in difficult moments for children.

Special thanks to Hon. Emily Bourke MLC, Chief Officer Brett Loughlin AFSM, CFS Foundation Ambassador Nathan van Berlo, and all the brigade members who participated in the launch, which was a huge success! We'd also like to thank Mitsubishi for generously loaning us a Triton to use for events like this - your support made a real difference.



CFS FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

We take this opportunity to acknowledge our dedicated CFS Foundation Board members who give their time, expertise, and passion to guide the CFS Foundation.

Each member of the Board serves in a volunteer capacity, driven by a shared commitment to strengthen and support our CFS volunteers. With diverse backgrounds in leadership, governance, finance, emergency services and community development, our Board plays a crucial role in guiding the Foundation's mission and ensuring funds raised go directly to those who need it most.

We thank our Board for their ongoing leadership and tireless efforts behind the scenes to support our brave CFS volunteers.



L-R – Andrew Lawson AFSM, Nathan Watts AFSM, Karen Ross, David Stobbe, Sue Renner, John Lynch OAM (Chairman), Rob Nelson, Anne Lucas & Brett Loughlin AFSM (CFS Chief Officer)

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

CFS FOUNDATION Luncheon

Rising to new heights

24 October 2025

12 - 3pm

Observatory 23

23 Hackney Rd. Hackney 5069

2 Course Lunch
Dessert Bar
3hr Drinks Package
Ticket \$150 ea

Special Guest Speaker
Nik Stanley - Manager of
CFS State Aviation Operation



TICKETS NOW ON SALE – CFS Foundation Luncheon

Join us for the CFS Foundation Annual Luncheon on Friday, 24 October at Observatory23 in Hackney. This year's theme will highlight the crucial role of the CFS aerial firefighting fleet, showcasing how these aircraft help reduce fire intensity and create safer conditions for our CFS crews on the ground.

Tickets are \$150 and you can book through our website or by scanning the QR code below.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful afternoon with you in support of our incredible volunteers.

www.cfsfoundation.org.au

DONATE NOW!

Support the CFS
Foundation to continue it's
vital work in supporting
our South Australian CFS
volunteers.

All donations over \$2 are
tax deductible.



TRIPLE 0 CHARITY BALL

We're thrilled to announce that the 2024 Triple 0 Charity Ball raised over \$150,000, supporting important programs for the four incredible charity partners: the CFS Foundation, SA Police Legacy, the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation and the Stafford Wulff Scholarship in Paramedicine.

The Triple 0 Charity Ball is a special night where South Australians come together to honour and support the emergency services community, including the dedicated workers, students, and families who serve and protect us every day.
Save the Date!

The 2025 Triple 0 Charity Ball will be held at Adelaide Oval on Saturday, 22 November 2025.

Early bird tickets go on sale 14 June – buy a ticket or buy a whole table but don't miss out on being part of this unforgettable event for a great cause.

Tickets are available online www.triple0charityball.com.au



TOLL

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CFS FOUNDATION INC.

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Supporting Volunteer Firefighters

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